

## A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE.

In how many and manifold ways are the words of the Apostle forced upon our attention: "The God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine into them." If people would but let the light shine in, how soon would the darkness and the sin that embitter and destroy many a valuable life be made to vanish! For some weeks past the reading public have had thrust upon their notice the details of as sad a story of domestic life as ought to satisfy the most malicious servant of the arch-enemy of souls. We are very strongly of opinion that a vast deal more harm is done by the publication of minute facts, which must inevitably tend to corrupt and demoralize social and family life, than can possibly be counterbalanced by any supposed promotion of the ends of justice through such publicity. We wish the conductors of our daily newspapers would show a little more solicitude for the elevation and purification of society, and cater less for the gratification of an unwholesome and morbid curiosity to become acquainted with evil, which lingers, we suppose, in nearly every human breast.

It is not within our province to attempt to solve "The Balham Mystery," but the lesson which it teaches every thoughtful man and woman seems to us to find voice in a few sentences which we extract from the evidence of one of the chief actors in this inexpressibly painful drama of English life. It occurs in the cross-examination by one of the legal gentlemen engaged in the case, who was questioning the wife of the deceased man:—

"He was not strong in his religious principles?—No.

"On the Wednesday morning were

you present when he asked for prayers?  
—Yes.

"You had up to that time observed that he was suffering most excruciatingly?—Most fearfully.

"Then religion seemed to have taken some little hold of him then?—I think he felt so ill that he thought he was going to die."

When will men and women learn the supreme folly of framing their lives on a basis which excludes from all account, God and his claims on our homage and obedience? When will people be convinced of the futility of attempting to spend their years in gratifying ambitious desires or unholy passions, and yet hope to escape the consequences of such a course of life? Why will people postpone to the flickering moments of an expiring and wasted life, that which should be settled as soon as reason and responsibility dawn in the mind, and which should be the very essence of human life, instead of an uncertain accident at its close? When, in short, will men and women live to God and not to themselves? Can any one doubt that if the poisoned man, and the others intimately connected with this sad affair, had been "strong in their religious principles," as it was termed, we and they should have been spared these dark and humiliating disclosures?

## MUNNY.

TRANSLATED BY MRS. S. J. RHEA FROM  
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OROOMIAH, PERSIA.

Died, March 4th, 1874, Munny, wife of Priest Karim, of Santloo. She was one of the earlier pupils of the Oroomiah Female Seminary under Miss Fiske and Miss Rice. There she ranked among the highest for faithfulness in keeping the rules appointed by the teachers. As we remember, she found